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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 12
Trade and development

1. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 19 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 12)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 12 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The change of emphasis in the programme of work and the change in priorities in favour of subprogrammes 2 and 3 were noted with appreciation. The efforts made by UNCTAD to foster international trade and development, and its contributions to the implementation of the World Trade Organization Doha work programme, as well as to the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, were acknowledged. Special interest was shown in the activities related to capacity-building and enhancement of institutions and human resources in the domain of

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trade. However, the view was expressed that the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 12.6 was inappropriate since some Member States did not agree to these goals.

4. The important role of UNCTAD in the area of technical cooperation, and its attention to sustainable development and debt management, were recalled. Reference was made to the assistance provided by UNCTAD to countries with economies in transition to support their integration into the world economy.

5. Support was expressed for the theme retained for the eleventh session of UNCTAD, namely, "Enhancing coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries" and for the preparatory work related to this conference.

6. The view was expressed that every effort should be made to avoid duplication of activities between UNCTAD and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as regards the work on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Concern was expressed that some outputs had been proposed for discontinuation as a result of the establishment of the Office. In particular, it was regretted that the advisory services referred to in paragraph 11A.43 (a) and (d) of A/56/6 (Sect. 11A) were proposed for discontinuation, taking into account the importance of such services in assisting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their efforts to be integrated into the international economy.

7. The efforts to carry out reforms including streamlining of management processes and enhancing capacity for programme delivery, and reducing the number of publications, were recognized.

8. The improvements in the result-based-budgeting narrative were acknowledged. However, the view was expressed that the indicators of achievements could be further sharpened. As an example, under subprogramme 1A, indicator (a) was thought not to be very clear. It was also stated that the indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (a) (ii), under subprogramme 5, should be revised to show the progress or the impact of the actions carried out.

9. It was suggested that the South-South Centre should be added to the list of the institutions and specialized agencies with which UNCTAD was cooperating (paragraph 12.12).

10. It was noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, had called upon the Secretary-General to enhance the operational capacity of UNCTAD as well as that of other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in their activities aimed at supporting recipient countries, and in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and an enquiry was made about what steps, if any, UNCTAD would undertake to ensure that their activities were not duplicative of other United Nations activities aimed at supporting least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

11. Delegations noted with appreciation that UNCTAD had changed its work programme implementation strategy and redeployed staff and resources to

concentrate on assisting least developed countries in four primary areas, in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

12. It was noted that UNCTAD should base its analytical work on empirical studies of country experiences. Therefore, UNCTAD should use actual case studies of countries' success or lack thereof in dealing with globalization and interdependence, specifically focusing on what works and what doesn't, as performance indicators, rather than interventions from Member States. Further, the case studies should include narratives on areas such as debt, obviating the need for many of the recurrent and non-recurrent publications.

13. The view was expressed that the following phrase should be added at the end of the text of the objective of subprogramme 1A: "through policy research and analysis, as well as through technical cooperation assistance in the area of capacity-building and human resources development".

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Replace, in every paragraph where the reference is made, the phrase "the Millennium Development Goals" with the phrase "the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as identified in section III of General Assembly resolution 55/2".

Paragraph 12.7

In the first sentence, replace the word "sectoral" with the word "national".

Paragraph 12.29 (a)

Before subparagraph (i), reading "United Nations Conference on Trade and Development", insert new subparagraph (i), reading "General Assembly: substantive servicing of and inputs to the High-Level Dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 57/250", and re-letter the subsequent subparagraphs of paragraph (a) accordingly.

Table 12.10

Under indicator of achievement (e), after the words "drawing on UNCTAD recommendations and the use of UNCTAD technical cooperation projects", add the words "that improve the area's trade, economic competition, enterprise development and investment climate".

Table 12.11

Under indicator of achievement (b), replace the words "Increased number of cross-sectoral activities" with the words "Significant increased number of cross-sectoral activities".

Table 12.15

Under indicator of achievement (a) (ii), replace the words "this area" with the words "the trade-related capacity-building area".

Paragraph 12.54 (a) (i)

After the phrase "multilateral trading system (2);", insert the phrase "contributions to the report on the implementation of the International Conference on Financing for Development concerning trade".

Annex

Retain the output contained in document A/56/6, paragraph 11A.31 (d) (i), entitled "Advisory services to developing countries to enhance their capacity to attract foreign portfolio investment funds, and to optimize their developmental impact", and the output contained in A/56/6 (Sect. 11A), paragraph 11A.43 (a) (i) (b), entitled "Inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its support for the creation of a division of management in order to strengthen the management and enhance the programme delivery capacity and performance of the UNCTAD secretariat.**

16. **The Committee recommended that UNCTAD continue to provide inputs, within its mandate, towards the process of the implementation of the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as assistance to least developed countries in preparing country programmes of the United Nations Development Programme in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/227.**